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Friday

April 7, 2000
Volume 00; Issue 51

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The Gateway

The Student Newspaper of the University of Nebraska at Omaha

Uzbekistan Ambassador Comes to UNO

ZAHRA CHEEMA

Features Editor

This Monday and Tuesday Ambassador of Uzbekistan, Sodyq S. Safaev, came to UNO upon an invitation by the UNO Office of International Studies and Programs.

Safaev has been the ambassador of Uzbekistan to the U.S. since 1996. Before his appointment, he was serving as counselor of state to the president of Uzbekistan, and in June of 1998, he was appointed ambassador to Canada.

On Monday Safaev lead a seminar on Uzbekistan and Central Asia in the Milo Bail Student Center Tower Room. On Tuesday he delivered a speech to the Rotary Club, and later met with UNO College of Business Administration representatives on Eurasian-UNO small business project.

Approximately 15 students and faculty attended Safaev's seminar on Monday, where he discussed the current situation of Uzbekistan. The seminar included the current changes taking place in Uzbekistan caused by its transformation of becoming a secular democracy.

"We must realize that there is initial change going on in Uzbekistan," Safaev said.

Safaev said that Uzbekistan is a key country in Central Asia because it borders the other five countries in Central Asia, it is the most homogenous in population, the most populated Central Asian country, the economy is diverse, and Uzbekistan has a rich history.

Safaev discussed Uzbekistan's good relationship with the former Soviet Union countries, and the important relationship with Kazakhstan in specific. He said that working together, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan can benefit together in many areas.

The ambassador also mentioned that U.S. Secretary of State, Madeline Albright, will be visiting Uzbekistan within the next two weeks. Safaev expressed very positive views towards the up-coming visit. This is the first time the Secretary of State has visited Uzbekistan.

After the seminar, there was an open discussion where attendees were allowed to ask Safaev questions. One of the questions that came up was about who Uzbeks see as their model country. Safaev said according to a recent poll done in Uzbekistan, 70% of Uzbeks voted for the U.S. as the model country.

Safaev was also pleased to have the opportunity to come to Omaha. "I am happy to be in Nebraska; in Omaha," he said. He also expressed his compliments to UNO.

"I think it's wonderful that the University of Nebraska at Omaha has a strong interest in Uzbekistan. It's so important and encouraging for people."

Safaev said that he looks forward to visiting again.

He also added that he is willing to set-up liaisons between U.S. professors and Uzbek students to encourage them to come to the U.S.



Chris Machian

Ambassador of Uzbekistan to the U.S. and Canada, Sodyq S. Safaev, speaks to the audience Monday during a seminar about Uzbekistan and Central Asia in the Tower Room of the Milo Bail Student Center. Safaev has been the ambassador of Uzbekistan to the U.S. since 1996, and to Canada since 1998.

Comprehensive Exams Have Grad Students Stressed

MARK D. GRAEVE

Staff Writer

Comps. It's short for comprehensive exams. For undergraduates, the word is a far off, vague concept. For graduate students, it represents a more immediate concern.

According to the 1999-2000 Graduate Catalog, comprehensive exams "should measure the students' knowledge and ability to synthesize that knowledge in the analysis of questions involving more than one concept."

Comps take different forms for different areas of study. Depending on whether or not the candidate is writing a thesis, the comps can be administered in either a written or oral format.

For Elie Harriett, who is studying for his master's degree in music, comps have been at the back of his mind from the beginning of his master's studies two years ago.

"I had to gear my note-taking for a test that I wouldn't take for a year and a half," Harriett said. About a month ago, Harriett received official notification for his comps. That left him about two weeks to prepare.

Based on a list of classes that his adviser provided, Harriett pored over the notes that he had taken over the last two years. Harriett said he considers himself lucky to have only two years of classes to review.

His job on campus has allowed him the luxury of being a full-time student, where many graduate students have full-time jobs and have to be part-time students over many years.

Part-time graduate students may have to reach back five or six years to find the information for their comps.

For Derek Leuenberger, who is studying for a master's degree in English, preparing for comps has been a semester-long ordeal. After turning in an 82-page thesis last semester, he received a guide of works to review in preparation for his comps.

Since then, Leuenberger's life has consisted of a seemingly endless parade of novels, poems and works of prose. He estimates that he read between 25 and 30 works in all. Although some of the works were short, many, like Herman Melville's "Moby Dick," more were time-consuming. In the final weeks of preparation, he spent three to four hours studying per day.

Comps are set up on a pass/no pass basis. Leuenberger took his comps Saturday and is still waiting for the results. He says that he is ready to "re-enter real life" now that his comps are over.

Students have an opportunity to retake the portions that they do not pass the first time. It is fairly common for students to retake portions of their comps.

In fact, Harriett got the impression that he was not expected to pass all four sections on the first try.

Comps are sometimes administered in less than ideal surroundings.

"I took my comps in a classroom next to rehearsals where sound leaked through," Harriett said. Other music comps were held in an office where people were working.

Multicultural Agency Director Resigns

JANET STYFFE

News Editor

Athena Ramos, director of the American Multicultural Student agency, has resigned her directorship and left UNO. She announced the decision in a letter to the Student Senate March 28.

"Throughout the past month, special circumstances have arisen including a once-in-a-lifetime chance to go with a delegation to Guatemala and an excellent job offer," Ramos said in the letter. "Because of some of my personal goals, I have decided to take advantage of these opportunities; however, this has required me to withdraw from classes here at the university."

Because she will no longer be a UNO student, Ramos will be ineligible for the position of director, which according to internal operating procedures, must be held by a UNO student. Ramos was appointed AMS



Dana Nelson

Athena Ramos, director of AMS, resigned late last week. Ramos was appointed AMS director for the Spring 2000 semester.

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The Gateway Newspaper
60th and Dodge Street
Omaha, NE 68182-0197
To reach our newsroom: 402-554-2470
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The Gateway is published by the University of Nebraska at Omaha Student Publications Committee on Tuesdays and Fridays during the fall and spring semesters and on Tuesdays during the summer sessions.

Advertising inquiries should be directed to the advertising manager.

Other inquiries or complaints should be directed to the editor. Copies of the Student Publications Committee inquiry/complaint policy are available at the Gateway office.

The Gateway is funded as follows:

70 percent advertising revenue, 30 percent student fees allocated by Student Government.

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Students Chat with Friends Over Internet

BECKY SWETT

Staff Writer

As the virtual lanes of the information superhighway grow wider and faster, more and more students are signing online. Many students use e-mail and instant messages to communicate with their friends and family.

What are instant messages?

If e-mail is the electronic equivalent of a letter, then instant messages are the equivalent of a phone call. It allows the user to chat in "real time" with another user who is also online.

There are a variety of different programs that people use to chat real-time with friends. One of the most popular is America Online (AOL), which offers chatrooms, Internet access and many other features as well as instant messages. Other instant messaging programs include AOL's Instant Messenger (AIM), ICQ and Yahoo! Messenger.

Freshman Molly Swift, an undeclared major, uses the ICQ program to chat with people she meets from around the world, because the people she knows offline are not connected to the Internet.

"Most people that I talk to are in Europe or Australia," Swift said. "I don't know anyone in real life that I talk to online."

Swift goes into chat rooms on the Internet to meet new friends. She sees it as a sort of hobby.

"Whenever I can't sleep, or when I don't have anything to do like school

or work, it's just a place to go," Swift said.

The disadvantage of knowing people so far away, Swift said, was that she couldn't talk to her friends on the phone like many people do.

"It would be a wee bit too much money," Swift said.

Another reason IMs are popular is that they are a good way to keep in touch with friends who are further away than a local phone call. For many students, IMs are a good way to reduce long distance phone bills.

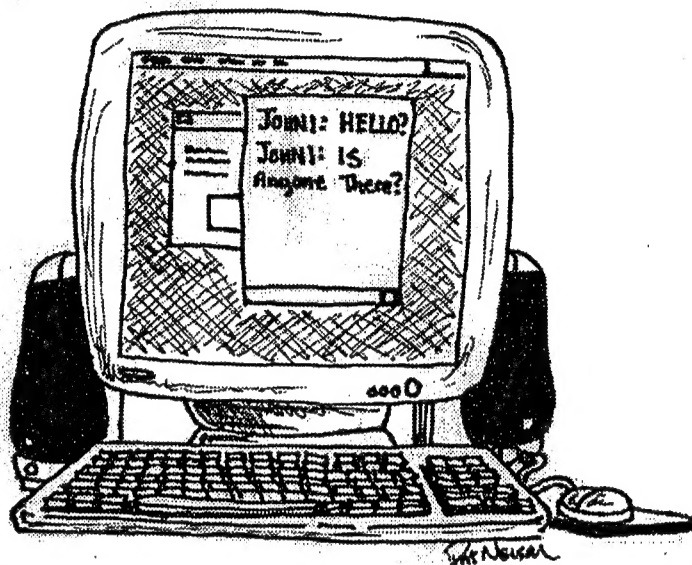
Freshman Stephanie Cross, an undeclared major, uses AOL to talk to her friends, especially those who have moved away. She said she is usually talking to more than one per-

son at a time via IMs, which is a distinct advantage over telephone conversations.

"I like to use IMs because I can talk to more than one friend at once over long distances without paying any bills," Cross said. "I can keep in touch with my friends no matter where they are in the country."

According to Cross, there are other advantages that IMs have over the telephone.

"Nobody can overhear your conversations since you're not talking out loud, and you can take time to think about your answer," Cross said. "Also, you can laugh at people and make comments about them, and they won't know."



news briefs

Gore Proposes Social Security Benefit For Women Who Quit Work To Raise Children

PHILADELPHIA (TMS) — Vice President Al Gore proposed Tuesday to make Social Security "fairer" to women by raising benefits for widows and eliminating a "motherhood penalty" that punishes parents for taking time off from work.

Speaking on the 65th anniversary of the introduction of the bill that created the Social Security system, Gore said his proposal would help millions of women who took time off work to rear children or whose husbands died. While his proposal is gender-neutral, the majority of beneficiaries would be women, whose votes he is fighting for vigorously.

The vice president's plan would let parents receive Social Security credit for up to five years of earnings if they stay at home with their children or work part time, a benefit he said would amount to about \$600 a year for each of 8 million parents. The caregiver would be credited with earning half the average wage, or \$16,500 in 2001.

"Because of those years spent raising children, all of the work done during that time is invisible where the Social Security program is concerned," Gore said.

Further, he said, millions of elderly women are "suddenly plunged into poverty" when their husbands die because widows' benefits are only half to one-third of what the couple had received together.

"I think that's unacceptable and I think it's wrong," Gore said as he stood before 18 senior citizens seated on a stage.

Gore proposed increasing the benefit for the surviving spouse to 75 percent of the benefit that had been paid to the couple. The change would give more than 3 million widows and widowers an average of an additional \$1,000 a year, up to a maximum of \$4,100 in 2001.

The vice president's proposal would be financed through Social Security surpluses, and would affect less than 5 percent of the federal budget surplus in the next decade, or less than \$100 billion, said Elaine Kamarck, his domestic policy adviser.

Hillary Clinton Picks Up Some Endorsements And Some Snide Remarks

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. (TMS) — Carpetbagger? Or homecoming queen? Saturday, to two major labor unions, Hillary Rodham Clinton looked more like the latter, as she

was crowned with the endorsements by the Civil Service Employees Association, representing 265,000 members, and the 42,000-member National Education Association of New York.

The endorsements are potentially significant because, while recent polls show Clinton and Mayor Rudolph Giuliani locked in a razor-close race, those surveys do not gauge the impact of labor muscle and the ability of unions to run vigorous get-out-the-vote operations.

"Union support counts in a big, diverse place like New York, with a big labor identification, because the unions work," said Quinnipiac College pollster Maurice Carroll. "The unions have telephone banks, they have mailings."

In Saratoga Springs Friday night, Gregory Nash, president of the Education Association, said the fact that Clinton is a new face in New York has little bearing on the election.

"People are looking for the best person to represent them, not necessarily the person who has lived here the longest," he said.

The First Lady gained his group's backing "because of her support and her record on education — and specifically public education," he added.

"Her apparent opponent has not been as consistent in his support for public education," Nash said, referring to Giuliani.

Earlier in Syracuse, Clinton accepted the Civil Service Employees Association endorsement.

"We find Hillary is a lot more on the issues we care about — workers' rights, education and health care," said association President Danny Donohue.

Union endorsements are no longer a slam dunk for Democrats, Donohue said. His union supported Gov. George Pataki in his reelection bid, and the union's failure to choose in the 1995 Pataki-Cuomo slugfest was viewed as a factor in Gov. Mario Cuomo's loss.

Giuliani campaign spokesman Bruce Teitelbaum said of Clinton's new union endorsements: "I find it curious, given Mayor Giuliani's record of creating jobs, cutting taxes and improving the quality of life. It's not surprising coming on the heels of hundreds of thousands of dollars in soft money contributions to her campaign from big labor unions across the country."

Last week, Democrat Clinton received the support of the labor union-backed Working Families Party, an endorsement that prompted Giuliani to suggest she is "far left."

'Adventures in Public Access': The Faces Behind the Show

ZAHRA CHEEMA

News Editor

Rob "Skippy" Williams, and Mark Ruskamp walked into the Gateway for an interview on their self-produced television program. "Adventures in Public Access" airs every other Monday at 9:30 p.m. on Cox Cable Channel 23. Sam Yancey, a junior and English major from Bellevue University, who also helped to produce the program, was not present but was there in spirit.

Ruskamp, a junior at Bellevue University majoring in communications, brought along with him a tape recorder. He set it on the table and propped up a picture of Yancey on it. Throughout the interview, Ruskamp would say, "Let's see what Sam has to say about this," and would push play on the recorder to hear Yancey's views.

Williams, who prefers being called "Skippy," is a sophomore at UNO majoring in communications.

Williams, Ruskamp and Yancey all directed, produced and acted in "Adventures in Public

Access." This program includes a series of small sketches. Williams said that it is like the day-dreams a person goes into throughout the day.

"It's a showcase of the absurd," Ruskamp said.

The program has no specific plot or theme, but it has a purpose.

"We are pointing out that not everything has a point," Ruskamp said.

"It includes insights of the true disturbed of white suburbia and what it's done to people who think too much," Williams said.

So far only two episodes have aired and both took a total of two months to shoot and produce. Two-thirds of another episode is still in the making.

Ruskamp has had some professional training in film.

"I did go to an art school for two years in Minneapolis. I studied filming, photography, sound and animation," he said.

As for Williams and Yancey, they learn as they go.

Ruskamp also has the equipment used to film with, such as the cam-

corder, and a computer which has helpful programs on it.

"I worked all summer to get the editing station," Ruskamp said.

When asked where they film, Williams replied, "Everywhere."

This includes anywhere around Bellevue or Omaha, and shooting for the episodes takes place during night.

As for lighting:

"We use natural

lights," Ruskamp said.

"Car lights," Williams said.

Williams and Ruskamp met when they were stu-

see PUBLIC ACCESS, page 14



Chris Machian

Mark Ruskamp (left) and Rob "Skippy" Williams (right) produce their own television program. "Adventures in Public Access" airs every other Monday at 9:30 p.m.

campus notes

Omicron Delta Kappa celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Omicron Delta Kappa Circle at Wednesday's breakfast honoring graduating seniors. Omicron Delta Kappa is the national leadership honor society. The UNO chapter, called a circle, was founded in 1950. Province Director Jerri Haussler of Hastings College presented a 50th anniversary framed certificate to the circle.

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Marcos's accomplishments have been: Cultural Awareness Program intern, President of A.L.A.S., American Multicultural Services agency director, Goodrich Student Association, Intertribal Council, Student Leader of the Month, Who's Who Among Students in Colleges & Universities, Committee member for the Chancellors Multicultural Commission, Advisory member for the Vice Chancellors Student Leadership Council, Committee member for the 1999 Latino Conference, and is a Volunteer/mentor for the YMCA's "Drug Free Youth Day".

Finalists



Allison Bentley



Frankie Coleman

Marcos will be honored at the Student Leadership Reception on April 12 along with Frankie, Allison and other student leaders.

S.O.L.D is a division of Student Affairs

Letter To The Editors

Stelly Calls for Accountability

Dear Editor:

MESSAGE TO BELCK: GET YOUR FACTS RIGHT!

This letter is written in response to last Friday's front-page *Gateway* article, titled "University's Hiring Practices Questioned." In that article, Chancellor Nancy Belck made a number of revealing and incorrect remarks, some of which I will expose in this brief response.

Belck begins her tirade with two incorrect statements, the first being that I am a "very angry person." When emotion is rooted in logic, facts and documentation, one calls it REASON. My awareness of the "games" being played and the resulting lack of black faculty and staff is the issue, not my response to it. The time wasted attempting to label me could be better be spent modifying (or perhaps overhauling) her pitiful attempts at "minority recruitment."

The second error is when Belck claims that I've never contacted her. When she was first hired, my short letter was the first. I followed up with a phone call. The best she could offer was a return call from one of her underlings. I don't deal with delegates: I want answers and those can best be arrived at when talking with the people who actually make the decisions. She was contacted, but refused to extend the common courtesy of responding directly.

Belck claims that she likes to "focus on harmony" and how "you bring everyone together and how to make a harmonious environment." Belck doesn't understand that each member of her orchestra has a different set of music in front of them. No matter how well they play together, the result is discord. In order to alter a situation, you must first admit that one exists. After you do that, you don't attempt to create harmony in the middle of chaos; you overturn the problem through the introduction and establishment of their opposite.

The question THEN becomes, does Belck or any of her administrative cronies have what it takes to make these changes? It is doubtful if those who directly benefit from discrimination and racism have the moral capacity to overturn them. But one thing is for sure: incorrect analysis only reaps incorrect results — such as the following.

Layne Keel claimed that "every university in the country is in the same boat we are." That is an absurd lie. If every university were in the same boat, then the minority faculty who are leaving UNO would have no place to go. The fact is, UNO's entire process dissuades minority faculty from coming here and there are those universities who simply wait in queue for them. Keel's claim of offers of a six figure salary is another error: those who teach are looking for more than just money. And some of those things they are looking for — competent administrative leadership, colleagues of color, monies for research and cultural compunction — they see they ain't gonna find here!

Mary Mudd had "no comment" because everything she is saying and attempting to do I already outlined for the entire university on more than a few occasions — in writing, on television and face-to-face. For instance, her "idea" of a cultural center was submitted by me more than 10 years ago with more than 15 letters of support from the community. She — and others — sat back and did nothing.

The article concludes with Belck's statement which serves as my initial thesis: "we have a long way to go." Evidently the administration thinks it can arrive at a goal of diversity and inclusion by taking the wrong path. What they will find out, someday, is that no matter how fast they move, with the personnel that they've now got, they will only go that much further astray that much faster.

Sincerely,

Matthew C. Stelly

Director, Triple One Neighborhood Association and Parents' Union

Student Opposes Funding Cuts Despite Perceived Problems

Letter to the Editor:

I am less than impressed with your half-hearted apology for the poor editorial content and control of the *Gateway*.

In comparing your own distractions and time-demands with those of other students involved in extra-curricular activities, you've missed a major point. Student athletes must meet not only the demands of their schoolwork, but must be an asset to the team. Students involved in other extra-curricular activities still have the scholastic demands, but also balance their time for those activities.

Clicking the mouse to spell-check isn't a laborious task. Reading an article before publication shouldn't be difficult for a college student, and it is the primary reason for the position of editor.

The editor alone is not to blame for all of the faults of the written articles, and the writers have much to blame to share. Having said that, the editor's desk is where the buck is supposed to stop. On a college campus, with English professors, journalism professors, and computer technology at hand, your excuses for shortages of help ring pretty hollow.

Pointing the finger of blame at non-contributors for their criticism of the *Gateway* is both cowardly and disingenuous. While many of us have the skills and interest required, we recognize that we do not have the time to dedicate to the task.

Several students have told me they feel belittled and excluded, unwelcome as contributors, and question the distribution of press passes etc. for the staff's personal gratification. In the world of media, perception is reality, and the perception is your staff is undisciplined.

Also neglected in this complaint is the fact that all UNO students must pay a part of the costs for the paper. That is taxation, and as a taxpayer we have the right to expect value for money spent.*

The editor and staff of the newspaper should not be so naive as to expect that a byline does not come without work, and the efforts of many of your contributors have shown a lackadaisical attitude towards that ethic.

I strongly suggest that your entire staff commit to improving the quality of articles-grammar, spelling, and editorial content. The tenor of most articles would lead a disinterested observer to the conclusion that the educational quality of this university is on a par with the Jerry Springer Show.

As a student, I have no problem with a variety of viewpoints being presented in columns, and I strongly believe that a college campus should encourage intelligent discourse. The problem with much of your columns is that the viewpoints presented are mere whines, and the attempted point-counterpoint(s) of

political issues are insubstantial sophomoric prattle.

In short, grow up! Learn to accept the challenges of your position, and administer the tasks that the job entails.

Having said all of that, I join with you in your protesting the proposed financial cuts in the *Gateway's* budget.

While I have already recited my reasons for criticizing the *Gateway*, cutting its budget as a disciplinary measure is an extremely short-sighted, knee-jerk reaction that would have historical consequences.

The reasoning given for the proposed cut was not a lessening of financial burden, but instead a big stick response to dissatisfaction with the product.

Allowing this proposal to succeed on this reasoning licenses the student officers with far too much power. Would we be having this quiet acquiescence to the proposed cuts if the target was one student ethnic group's activities?

If readers don't think such a thing is possible, they need to sign up for an American History class. Read about America First-ers during the 1930s. Look up some of the behaviors on college campuses prior to the Civil Rights Act. Have you heard of Bob Jones University? Research the causes behind the founding of the SDS (Students for a Democratic Society) in the 1960s. Do you know what Lyndon LaRouche espoused in the 1970s and 1980s? Where he drummed up much of his support? Ever heard of Louisiana's David Duke? The chiseling away of everyone's rights to appease a small if vocal minority is far too expensive to let go unchallenged.

University students are legally adults, and as an adult, action or inaction has consequences. How cheap are you willing to sell yourself? Some politician decides that his/her agenda takes precedence over your rights and you just let it go because it's not that big of a deal. Then the next politician comes along, and you give up some more because it's not that big a deal ... and the next politician wants that music to stop ... and the next politician doesn't like those magazines ... and maybe the next politician thinks you need to be watched closely ...

What kind of a society do you want to live in? What kind of a legacy do you want to leave your children?

Sincerely,

Jeff O'Donnell

Student, taxpayer, voter

College of Continuing Studies

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The editor reserves the right to edit all letters for publication. Letters must be signed using the writer's first and last names. Letters must include the writer's address and phone number for verification purposes only. Letters to the editor exceeding two typed pages will not be considered for publication.

Graduate Supports Sen. Grillo

Dear Editor:

As a UNO graduate, I try to follow events of importance on campus and pick up and occasional Gateway. The March 28 issue reports an allegation against Student Senator Ryan Grillo, ("Grievance Filed against CBA Senator Alleging Misuse of Funds.")

I am not an unbiased observer. I am just as active a Democrat as Sen. Grillo is a Republican, so I am well acquainted with the target of these allegations. I am also a former speaker of the Student Senate and a past editor in chief of the Gateway, so I have strong opinions about the proper conduct of student leaders.

Clearly over recent years, a number of individuals at UNO have exhibited behavior that demeans rather than elevates the

offices to which they are entrusted.

That said, the purpose of this letter is to defend Ryan Grillo, and to compliment him on a job well done. He is the subject of criticism because he attended a student government conference in Texas and missed two scheduled programs so that he could meet with the director of the Texas A&M multicultural affairs office. Apparently, there is now some rule that requires persons attending conferences to be present for all scheduled events, and to reimburse SG-UNO if they fall short of that restriction. While this rule may have been well intentioned, its application in all cases would lack discretion and common sense.

Sen. Grillo has consistently expressed interest in multicultural affairs at UNO. His effort to schedule this meeting while in Texas

should be saluted as initiative, not scolded as insubordination. There is a valid and general concern about the state of multicultural affairs throughout the university system. We've seen the Legislature express interest, set objectives and even provide funding to encourage recruitment and retention of women and minority faculty members. The entire university community would benefit if more people demonstrated the concern Ryan Grillo has in these issues.

It is easy for students at a predominantly commuter campus to view student government as irrelevant and impotent. But when a voice like Grillo's is given a forum, it can make a difference. If it is ever silenced, we all lose.

Sincerely,
Gary J. Di Selvestro
Graduate

Frankenstein Foods

Dear Editor:

A new form of corporate exploitation has arisen. I would term it "bio-imperialism." Corporations are patenting species of life all around the planet and attempting to increase their expropriation of wealth from the Third World by this process.

India's neem tree was patented, as well as many other medicinal plants, and even the cell lines of indigenous people. This raises the possibility of restrictions on the uses of medicinal plants or the payment of royalties. Since native peoples have researched and developed these plants over the centuries, I think the wealth should be flowing in the opposite direction.

Multinational chemical companies are marketing genetically-engineered seeds which produce crops resistant to their particular brand of herbicide and pesticide. Farmers sign contracts requiring that they only use the fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides produced by (certain companies.) In addition, they must buy seeds every year from (certain companies,) rather than saving seeds as they have for generations. Already, some farmers have been prosecuted for saving

seeds.

This policy increases corporate profits, but does not benefit farmers and results in increased chemical use and pollution. Also gene transfer between related species can occur, resulting in "super weeds" and "super pests" and unknown effects on the ecosystem. Consumers eating genetically-engineered food can develop allergies because of the new proteins present in those foods. There is great controversy and protest in Europe over the so-called "Frankenstein food."

The corporatization of agriculture is also driving thousands of small farmers off the land in the United States and millions of small farmers are being displaced in the Third World, resulting in desperate poverty and shantytowns on the outskirts of Third World cities. The small family farm, which has worked so well for the American people, is rapidly disappearing in the United States.

I have tremendous respect for science and greatly favor the use of biotechnology to develop cures for cancer and other diseases. However, I definitely oppose its use as a tool of imperialism.

Sincerely,
Gary Sudborough

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Premiere Night of Entertainment

SHOWCASE UNO

DAVID M. JOHNSON

Editorial Staff

SHOWCASE UNO, the university's premiere show choir, will present a lavish spring concert April 14 at 8 p.m. at the Strauss Recital Hall.

SHOWCASE UNO is the best of the best, a select ensemble of 17 musicians/performers under the wand of Artistic Director Ron Troester. Their concert covers a wide range of popular music styles, from big band

swing, to '70s pop, to modern Broadway, including highlights by musical collaborators Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty. Glenda Epperson is the primary accompanist.

SHOWCASE UNO is sponsored by the UNO Alumni Association. These students serve as ambassadors of the university, and provide entertainment throughout the community.

Admission to the April 14 spring concert is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and senior citizens.

It's Showtime!

WHAT: SHOWCASE UNO

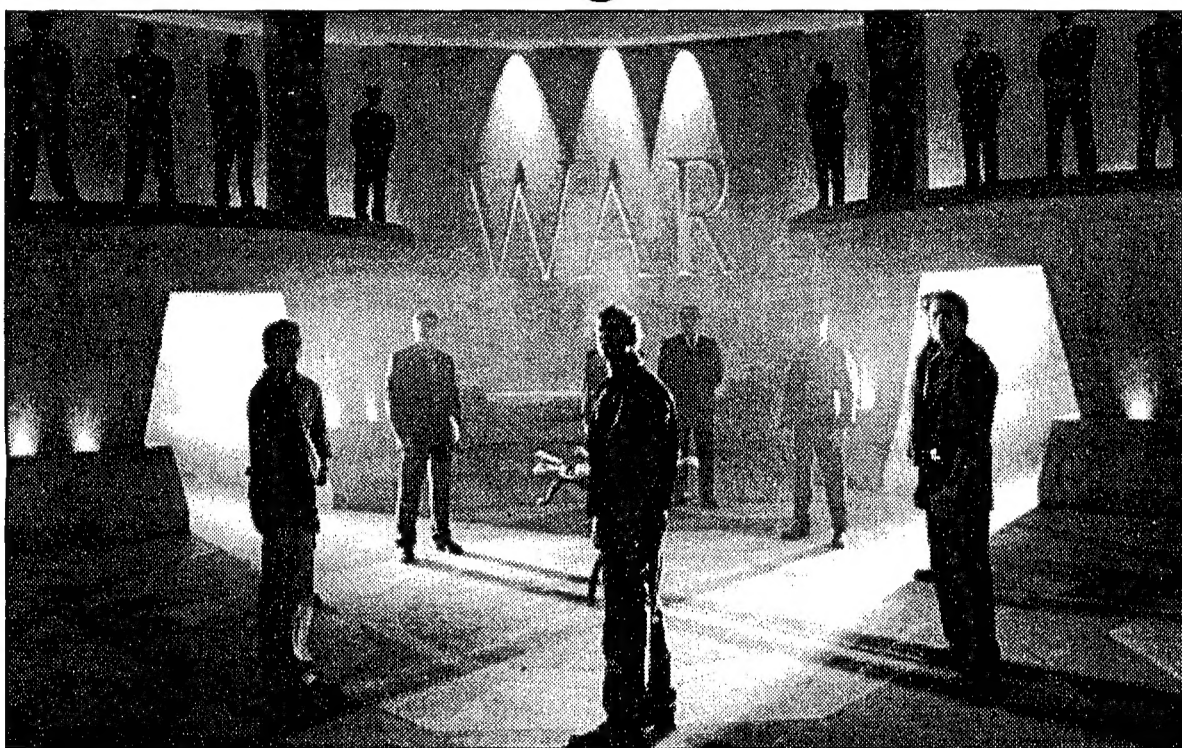
WHEN: April 14, 8 p.m.

WHERE: STRAUSS RECITAL HALL

COST: \$5 Adults, \$3 STUDENTS, SENIOR CITIZENS

Silver Screen

'Skulls' is Thrilling and Entertaining



Luke McNamara (Joshua Jackson, center) joins a secret society called the Skulls.

courtesy photo

a review by Tim Vidas

"Skulls" slides into a genre of suspense, murder and mystery, only there isn't much mystery.

The film keeps the audience very well informed on what is happening on the screen.

Depending on how it is watched, this could be a "thinking movie," but I think most will watch "Skulls" purely for its entertainment value.

"Skulls" is based on secret societies — real societies such as Harvard's Scroll & Key or the more closely matched Yale's Skull & Bones. Author Anthony Sutton

writes more about these secret groups in "America's Secret Establishment."

The movie has you believing the societies are secretly run the United States, maybe even the world. A George Orwell-like big brother feeling is imposed on the audience.

John Grisham's "The Firm" comes to mind when thinking of this film. The tagline for "Skulls" could have read, "A secret society so powerful, it can give you everything you desire ... at a price."

Joshua Jackson (Dawson's Creek) takes a different role as Luke McNamara.

McNamara knows exactly what he wants and is very poised and dedicated to achieving his goals, he just finds out that sometimes the goal isn't worth the sacrifices made to get there. He plays both parts well, a very believable actor in this film at least.

Supporting actor Paul Walker added some depth this film needed. Walker's character was very troubled but didn't know it.

Although it won't make it to the top of many peoples lists, "Skulls" is definitely worth the trip to the theater. **Grade: B**

'Final Destination' 'Here on Earth' Arrives Fiercely

a review by Rae Licari

"Final Destination" is not your average horror flick.

Most horror films, especially as of late, tend to be cheesy, overhyped and generally not scary. "Final Destination" is none of the above. Unlike such recent horror flops as "Scream 3," this movie has an interesting plot, quality actors and a clever sense of humor.

Nobody likes to think about their own death, especially if it involves a horrible freak accident. But Alex Browning (Devon Sawa) can't really get away from the subject, because he can see death coming.

While boarding a plane for the high school trip to France, Alex experiences a terrifying premonition of the plane tearing apart and erupting into flames with all passengers on board, including his

see 'FINAL DESTINATION,' page 8

a review by Tim Vidas

"Here on Earth" is a romantic, drama that ended with about 80 percent of the audience sobbing. There are moments in the film which give it a "Titanic"-esc quality and will keep people watching it for some time to come. On the other hand, it also has some qualities of the often overlooked "Stepmom."

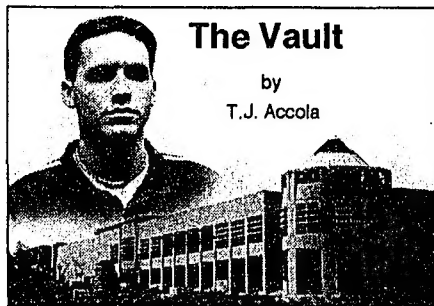
Actor Chris Klein is on his way to the top. With currently only "American Pie" and

Omaha's own "Election" under his belt he slams out another great performance.

Klein's character Kelly is the rich brat who the local folk hate, but secretly wish they were like. His character transforms throughout the film into a loving, caring individual ready to put it all on the line in the name of love.

Klein's performance will really move the audience.

see 'HERE ON EARTH,' page 8



Stuff You May Have Missed

T.J. Reminds us of Movies, Music and More

"The Limey": Steven Soderbergh has been on quite a roll lately. This movie got lost in between Soderbergh's 1998 effort "Out of Sight," which was a critical favorite, and his current film "Erin Brockovich," which has spent the last three weeks atop the box office. It's a shame really, "The Limey" is easily better than the others.

Clocking in at 89 minutes, the movie is over almost too quickly. A simple story of revenge, "The Limey" centers on a British ex-con named Wilson (Terence Stamp) who travels to Los Angeles to find out just what happened to his daughter, who died in a mysterious car wreck.

Soderbergh has turned a seemingly cold and calculated crime story into a surprisingly touching story. You've rooted for the revenge-driven character before, but never like this.

Filled with intriguing characters, most notably a nearly likable bad guy (Peter Fonda), "The Limey" is destined to be a

Soderbergh classic: an ultra-cool, yet undeniably sincere crime story. **Grade: A**

"The Beach - Motion Picture Soundtrack": Whether you love or hate the films of the Danny Boyle/John Hodge filmmaking team, few people can deny their impeccable music tastes.

The soundtrack to "Trainspotting" is considered a modern classic and the tracks featured in the horrid "A Life Less Ordinary" nearly justify that movie's existence. As could be expected, Boyle and Hodge have filled the soundtrack to their latest outing, "The Beach," with a number of eclectic, yet very appealing, songs.

While the album contains quite a few previously released tracks, they seem just as fresh as ever when mixed in with some of the new material. None are more fitting than Moby's "Porcelain," which really, really makes you wish you could frolic in the white sands of a tropical beach.

Surprisingly enough, simple pop tunes like All Saints' "Pure Shores" manage to hit the ear just right when mixed into the brew. Although it's definitely a techno-oriented collection, "The Beach" seems just as organic and natural as any of those rainforest ambience CDs. **Grade: B+**

"About a Boy" by Nick Hornby (now available in paperback): While Hornby's earlier work, "High Fidelity," is getting all the attention in its film version, "About a Boy" remains untouched by Hollywood.

Grab a copy and read it before it becomes the next in the long line of mishandled novel-to-movie adaptations. "About a Boy" is the story of a most unlikely friendship: that between 30-ish Will and twelve-year-old Marcus. The former is an unemployed single guy living off of royalty checks

and the latter is the victim of divorced parents.

The two may not have much in common, but they sure have a lot to teach one another. Will shows Marcus how to be "cool" and in return, Marcus will pretend to be Will's son, so that Will can meet other single "parents." But there's much more they end up learning from one another.

"About a Boy" is not as hip and funny as "High Fidelity," but it is a simultaneously humorous and touching story. Readers who truly appreciated Hornby's wit and honesty in "High Fidelity" will thoroughly enjoy this book. **Grade: B+**

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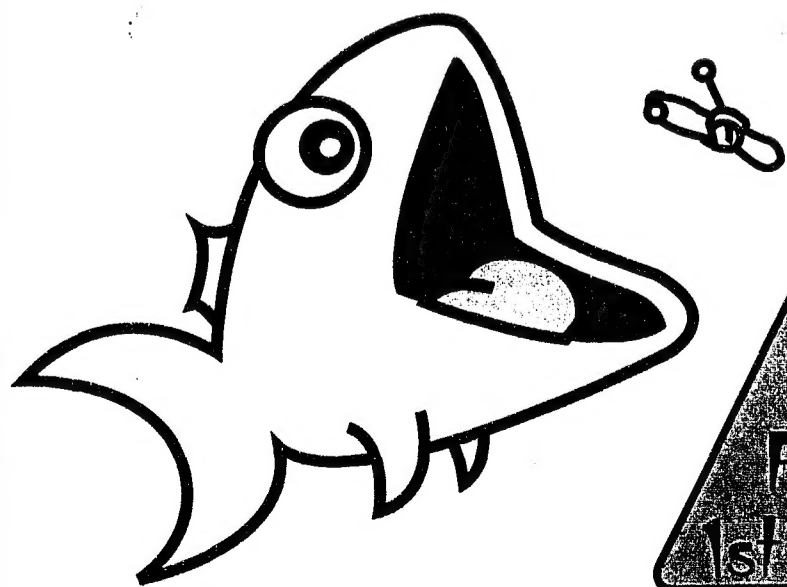
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Silver Screen continues

'HERE ON EARTH'

from page 6

Klein mixes well with Leelee Sobieski, who could probably mix well with anyone for that matter. She and Josh Hartnett ("The Faculty") play two of the money-despising locals that live near the private high school Kelly attends.

These three form a love triangle that the movie depends on ... somewhat like "Titanic."

Everyone can relate to the feelings and emotions in "Here on Earth," with the graduation from high school and the preparation for college or work. The young love that doesn't make it, the heartbreak that ensues.

For those who can't relate to the high school days so much, there is another deep connection to family health.

Americans have a close relative with

some life-threatening disease. The movie drips with these feelings. Sobieski's character is forced to grow up really fast, and she shows it well.

References to the traditional English poetry not only give the two romantics a connection, but it gives the film just a hair more depth and brings an artistic air to the screen. Director Mark Piznarski's interpretation of how these poems visualize really does a lot for the overall quality of the movie.

"Here on Earth" is a date movie, but if for some reason it doesn't work out, you still need to find a way to see this movie. Unless you are dead-set against the viewing of romance films, you'll like this one.

Grade: A-

'FINAL DESTINATION'

from page 6

friends, teachers, classmates and himself. Naturally, he does what any normal person would do — freak out and get off the plane. In doing so, he causes such a fuss that the flight attendants refuse to let him or the six others who followed him back on board. The plane takes off without them.

And detonates immediately after takeoff.

The problem is Alex and the other six aren't free from the clutches of death quite yet. Alex discovers death's pattern and knows who will be next to bite the dust. The rest of the movie follows the group of survivors as they attempt to outwit their own mortality.

With regards to plot, "Final Destination" succeeds where other films have failed. It may not be a total surprise that the charac-

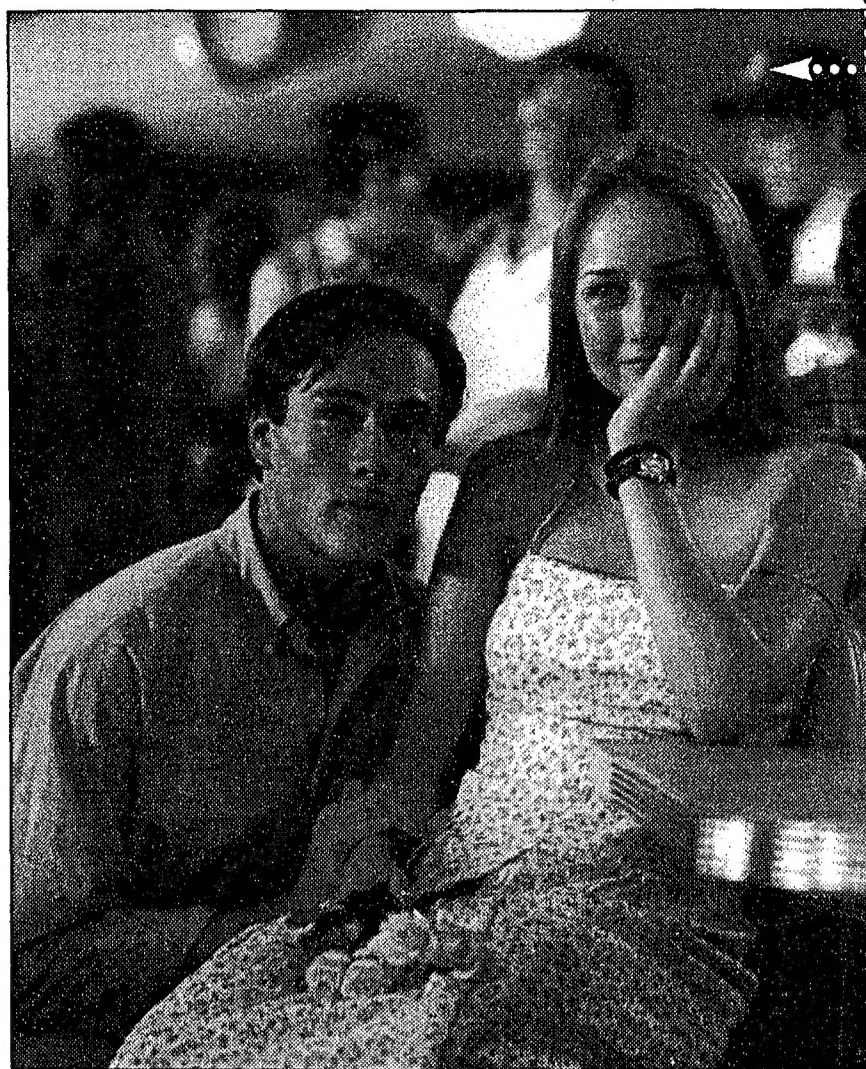
ters die; the question is where and when. When the number of ways fatal accidents can occur is considered, everything is suspect, and will keep the surprises coming.

Probably the best word to describe "Final Destination" is INTENSE. The cast of virtually unknown actors keeps emotions high with superb acting jobs. And while the film may not be dialogue-packed, what is there is able to produce quite an impact.

The film's running gag concerning John Denver (Get it? PLANE CRASH?) adds the final touch of morbid humor to the superb thriller.

One thing is certain; "Final Destination" will leave you looking both ways before crossing the street.

Grade: A



courtesy photo

Chris Klein is a wealthy student who unexpectedly finds himself falling in love with a small town girl, portrayed by Leelee Sobieski.

HOROSCOPES

by Madame Zora

ARIES

(MAR. 1 - APR. 19)

Ignorance is a delicacy. Savor it.

TAURUS

(APR. 20 - MAY 20)

Everytime you lift your foot from the accelerator, you car accelerates. It's possessed and you know it.

GEMINI

(MAY 21 - JUNE 20)

This week is national National Week. If you know what your supposed to do on this week, please let me know, because frankly I'm clueless.

CANCER

(JUNE 22 - JULY 22)

Please just get away from me. Don't talk to me, don't look at me, and if you touch me I will bite of your left arm. You heard me - your LEFT arm!

LEO

(JULY 23 - AUG. 22)

"To be or not to be"? To smack someone up-side the head, or to let them go, to thrown small sharp pebbles at someone, or to let them throw pebbles at me. That is the question.

VIRGO

(AUG. 23 - SEPT. 22)

People talk so much about "life" that the word has lost all meaning. "I have a good life, I have a bad life, my life is." If a word that holds so much meaning and concentration is tossed around with such apathy then what is the future of words like disestablishmentarian?

LIBRA

(SEPT. 23 - OCT. 23)

You always want to treat everyone equally and that is one of your best qualities. Go forth and practice it, and teach the unknowing of this.

SCORPIO

(OCT. 24 - NOV. 21)

So...much.....strength..... no, no wait a minute, let me start again. So...much strength....is.... Just forget it. I give up.

SAGITTARIUS

(NOV. 22 - DEC. 21)

Have you ever wondered how famous people got such perfect names - like Walt Disney, how perfect is that?! If I had that name, I'd automatically know I was destined for greatness.

CAPRICORN

(DEC. 22 - JAN. 19)

Your power FBI secret service password this week is —. This line will self-destruct in ten seconds.

AQUARIUS

(JAN. 20 - FEB. 18)

M.C. Hammer is on your mind. I highly recommend that you break out your silver metallic pants. If you do, a series of lucky events will follow you. Disregard laughs, insults, and rude jokes.

PISCES

(FEB. 19 - MAR. 20)

You press "Search" on your computer. How slow can your modem go. Waiting over an hour your eyes get glued to the screen and you fall asleep. When you awake its 2060, and bell-bottoms are in style again.

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Building Your Musical Library

David Johnson Lists Five CDs You Should Own: Jazz Voice

Jazz stylists, like jazz music, come in many shades and expressions. Blues. Ballads. Scat. Jive. Their voices are their instruments. Some, such as Ella Fitzgerald and Bobby McFerrin, can make their voices do things which, until they did them, were pretty much humanly impossible. It is the variety which makes the jazz singer special.

1. "In The Wee Small Hours Of The Morning," Frank Sinatra, Capitol Records, 1955. Whether you love or hate Frank Sinatra, you must admit, nobody ... and I mean nobody ... strapped on a pair of vocal chords and crooned a song like the Chairman of the Board. Frank walked into the recording studio in Feb.-Mar. 1955, just after having had his heart ripped from his chest by Ava Gardner, and put together what is considered the most superb example of a theme album ever recorded. Nelson Riddle's choice to underplay his orchestra let the public hear every honest note of heartbroken anguish and pain which flowed from the blue-eyed singer. No longer the spirited, youthful boy who belted out pop with the Dorsey band, Frank's voice was deeper and richer and began to show that now-familiar "slide into a note" style. Other classics on this CD include "When Your Lover Has Gone" (Einar Swan), "Mood Indigo" (Duke

Ellington and Albany Bigard), "I Get Along Without You Very Well" (Hoagy Carmichael and Jane Thompson), "It Never Entered My Mind" (Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart) and "What Is This Thing Called Love?" (Cole Porter). Warning: Do not play this CD while alone.

2. "Breaking Away," Al Jarreau, Warner Brothers, 1981. Voice extraordinary. While Jarreau will later score his biggest commercial hit with "Moonlighting," this earlier CD, as a package, is the purest of jazz dynamite. His lyrics to Dave Brubeck's "Blue Rondo A La Turk" and interpretation of the same earned the stylist a Grammy for jazz vocals. Not often is the revival better than the original, but Jarreau's "Teach Me Tonight" (Sammy Cahn and Gene DePaul) clearly outshines the Decastro Sisters' (1955) classic rendition. From "Closer To Your Love" (Al Jarreau) to "We're In This Love Together" (Keith Stegall and Alan Murrah) to the title track, Jarreau brings hit after hit, but these are simply a warm-up for the vocal gymnastics of "Roof Garden" (Al Jarreau and Tom Canning). A must CD for all jazz enthusiasts.

3. "New Standards," by John Pizzarelli, RCA, 1994. This is the best

new jazz singer/guitarist on the East Coast. Son of legendary jazz guitarist Bucky Pizzarelli, John has added his father to his trio and is quickly making a name for himself on the national scene. "New Standards" is primarily a collection of new material with one exception — a marvelous rendition of Rosemary Clooney's hit "Come On-A My House" ((B. Arthur and G. Shayne). "Fools Fall In Love" (Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller) open the CD in great fashion. "Just a Skosh" (John Pizzarelli) is a high-octane jazz tribute to the great Oscar Peterson. The best song on the album is track No. 10 "Why Do People Fall In Love?" (D. Lambert and B. Potter), also recorded by Tony Bennett, is a love song you'll play over and over again. A young voice sure to mellow with age, Pizzarelli is a rising star.

4. "The George Benson Collection," by George Benson, Warner Brothers, 1981. Wow! A professional since age 10, George Benson is one of the greatest jazz/pop/soul crossover artists in music history. This collection of super hits was produced by Jay Graydon, the same Jay Graydon who produced Al Jarreau's "Breaking Away." Listen to this lineup: "Turn Your Love Around" (Graydon, Lukather, Champlin), "Give Me The Night" (Rod

Temperton), "On Broadway" (Barry Mann, Cynthia Weil, Jerry Leiber, Mike Stoller), "This Masquerade" (Leon Russell), "Livin' Inside Your Love" (Earl Klugh), "Breezin'" (Bobby Womack) and "The Greatest Love of All" (Michael Masser and Linda Creed). And if Benson alone isn't enough for you, here are a few of his friends who appear on this CD: Chaka Khan, Aretha Franklin, Quincy Jones, Earl Klugh, Patti Austin, David Foster and Herbie Hancock.

5. "25" by Harry Connick, Jr., Sony Music, 1992. I bought this CD for one reason only, the first track, "Stardust" (Hoagy Carmichael). This five plus minutes of sheer bliss is the best treatment of the greatest love song ever written. One interesting note, the piano part on "Stardust" was too difficult for Connick to play, so he asked his piano teacher Ellis Marsalis to play it on the cut. Good choice. As I said, I bought this CD especially for "Stardust," but there is so much more. Johnny Mercer's "Tangerine" is here, as is Duke Ellington's "Caravan." Carmichael and Mercer re-appear with "Lazybones" (complete with coke can and glugging at the end!). The Mercer parade of jazz continues with the final cut, "On The Atchison, Topeka and the Santa Fe." Harry Connick, at age 25, never sounded better.

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Mavs Pick up Two More Wins

RHIANNA MAYS

Staff Writer

Jill Peterson's suicide squeeze bunt in the bottom of the fifth inning scored the games lone run allowing UNO's softball team to sweep two games from No. 7 South Dakota State Tuesday.

In the night cap Jenne Averill went 2-3 with a double. Third baseman Kelly Davis added two hits of her own.

Freshman pitcher Kristen Unger tossed a two-hitter and didn't allow a single run. The Mavs beat the Coyotes 1-0.

In earlier action, UNO collected 11 hits as it went on to defeat South Dakota State 5-2.

The Mavs jumped out to an early start, scoring four runs on four hits and four walks in the bottom of the first inning.

Davis pounded out three hits including a triple to lead the Mavs offensively. Kelsey Duckworth went 3-4 with two runs scored.

Pitcher Michelle Manthei moved to 17-4 on the season.

The Mavs are set to play in the NCC North/South Showdown I Saturday and Sunday in Sioux Falls, S.D.



CM Chris Machian

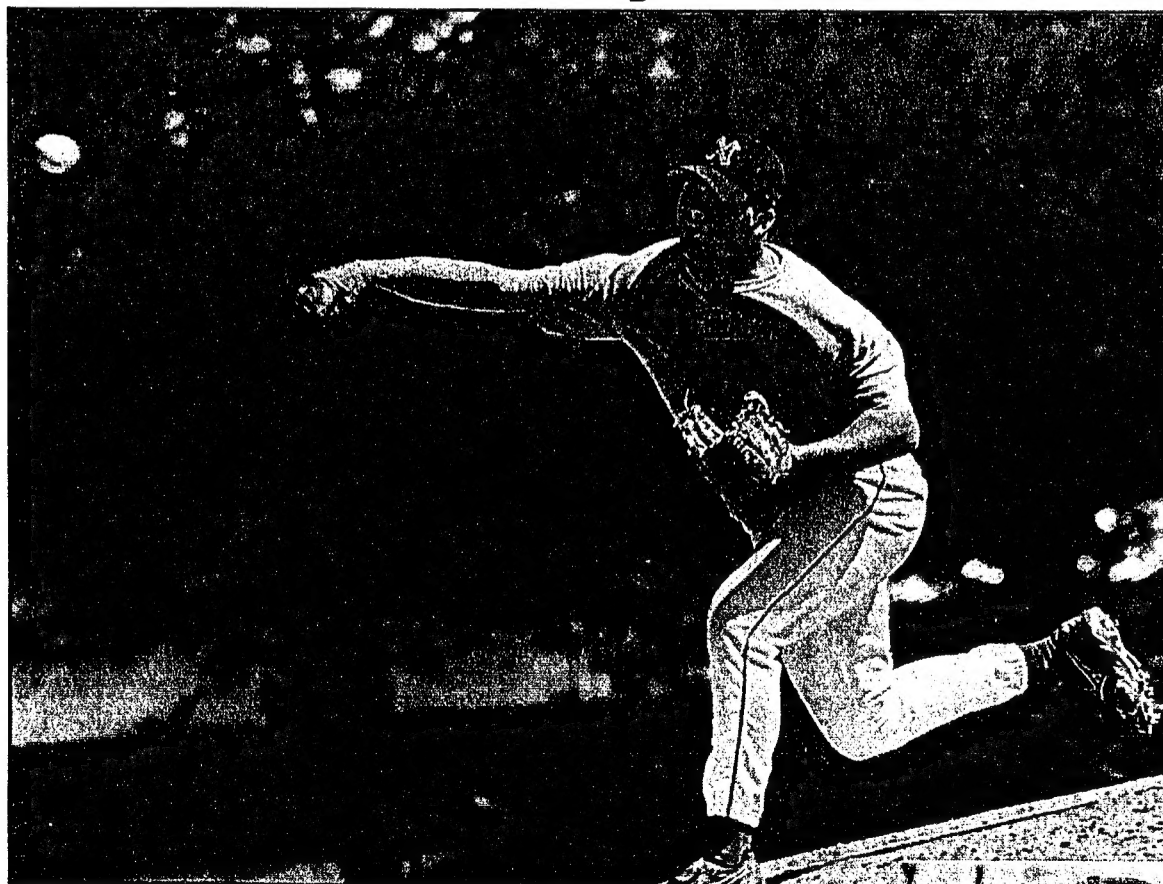
Above: USD's Julie MacRunnels is tagged out at third base by Mav thirdbaseman Kelly Davis in the Mavs 5-2 victory in the first game Tuesday against the Coyotes.

Right: Jill Peterson (left) prepares to make the catch Tuesday in the Mavs 5-2 victory in their first game and Kelleigh Warren (right) is there just in case.

SH Steve Houlton



Baseball Plays First NCC Foe



Left: Aaron Woodard throws from the mound Wednesday afternoon. Woodard is 2 and 1 the season and is tied for most starts on the team with 5.

Below: Head Coach Bob Herold talks to his team before practice Wednesday afternoon. The Mavs start conference play this afternoon with a double header against Augustana at 1 p.m. and play another double dip against the Vikings Saturday at 1p.m.

CM Chris Machian

KATIE RATCLIFF

Senior Staff Writer

After splitting a weekend doubleheader with No. 5 Rockhurst, the UNO baseball team will battle for four wins in its first four conference games of the season.

One doubleheader will be held this afternoon at 1 p.m. and one will be held tomorrow at the same time.

The Mavs are 11-12-1 entering this

weekend's play against the Vikings. Augustana is 12-4 on the season but this weekend will mark the opening of their conference play as well.

The Mavs have gone 6-2-1 in their last nine games. Last season the team lost to Augustana both times they played them, 5-3 and 7-6.

The games this weekend will be at UNO's new home field at Seymour Smith Park at 68th and Harrison.



UNO's Heavy Hitter: Jason Herzog

JJ RIDER
Staff Writer

Over the past two seasons, UNO's Jason Herzog has been one of the top offensive powers in the North Central Conference.

Last year was Herzog's first year at UNO after transferring from Madison Area Technical College, a junior college in Madison, Wisc.

Prior to transferring, Herzog was a member of the 1997 winning team at the Junior College World Series in Latavia, N.Y. Herzog was named to the All-Tournament team that year as well.

Now that Herzog is in a

UNO uniform, not much has changed. He has an impressive glove but is most proud of his power with the bat.

"Being a good batter takes confidence, keeping your weight back, looking for your pitch and keeping your eye on the ball," Herzog said. "I try to look for a fast ball."

Earlier this season, Herzog crushed a first-pitch fast ball out of the park for a grand slam against Northwest Missouri State. "He threw it right down the middle and I connected," the senior said.

Herzog holds down the middle at shortstop.

"A shortstop is the center of attention on the diamond. You

have to make sure players are in position to execute double play balls effectively."

This year Herzog has been selected as a co-captain.

"Being in a leadership role for this team means being an example to the younger players and the rest of the team. I have to lead by my example since I am not a vocal leader," the right-hander said.

This year Herzog is leading by example, batting just shy of .400. Last season Herzog batted .406 with three homers and 44 RBIs, including a 16-game hitting streak.

"Regardless of my personal stats, the only goal I have this year is winning the conference

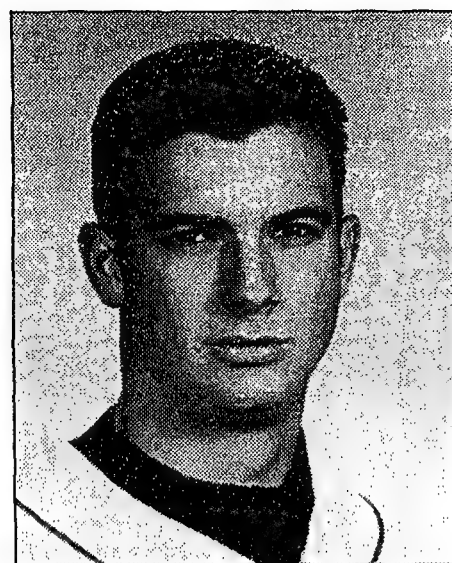
and holding the conference tournament here this spring," Herzog said.

Herzog realizes his time of playing baseball is now and not tomorrow.

"I came to UNO to play baseball as best as I can. But in the long run I hope to trade my athletic ability for an engineering degree."

In high school at Racine Horlick, Herzog was a standout in both baseball and volleyball, earning conference player of the year honors in high school.

Jason Herzog leads the Mavs by example, he has started in every game and leads the team in at bats this season. Currently batting .388 for the season with one home run.



UNO Dashes for Nebraska Open

KATIE RATCLIFF
Senior Staff Writer

The UNO Track and Field team will travel down I-80 another time this season and stop at the Ed Weir track in Lincoln to compete in the Nebraska Open.

UNO's team has ventured to Lincoln many times during the 2000 season but this will be the first outdoor competition in Lincoln for the team.

Last weekend the Mavs made their debut outdoor performance for this season and came in second in the Bearcat Invitational at Northwest Missouri State in Maryville, Mo. They missed beating first place Truman State by just 12.5 points. Eighteen Mavericks placed in the top three in their respective events.

Tomorrow's meet starts at noon and is hosted by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

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Ankeny and Grennan Will Represent UNO in Holland

MELISSA KUCIREK

Staff Writer

When Tracy Ankeny started playing volleyball, she had no use for it. All she wanted to do was run track. It wasn't until the Dixon, Neb., native began playing for the Junior Olympic team North Central Juniors, that she decided she might be on to something.

"Club volleyball was when I really started taking volleyball seriously," Ankeny said.

Ankeny, a junior, will take her volleyball playing experience to a new level this summer, when she and Mav teammate, freshman Jewelia Grennan, travel overseas to play in Holland. Ankeny will represent the NCAA Div. II group, and Grennan, the 19-and-under division.

Head Maverick Volleyball Coach Rose Shires approached Ankeny one day in the weight room. Shires asked if she would be interested in the international opportunity.

"I was planning on being a nanny over the summer," the education major said. "It sounded like a great opportunity and an honor."

Nine other players join Ankeny. These other players hail from places such as Texas, Iowa and New York. Ankeny has

never been to Holland before, and plans to study up on the country before her two-week stay.

"I really want to see the Anne Frank memorial," Ankeny said.

The outside hitter has made numerous memorable moments at UNO. She holds the honor of being the first freshman in the UNO volleyball program's history of being an All-American. Also, after his freshman campaign, she claimed North Central Conference Freshman of the Year. The 5-9 Ankeny gained All-American and Academic All-North Conference Honors following her sophomore and junior seasons.

With a sweet and calm voice, Ankeny does mention one incident that left her nervous. At her first Mav practice, she cited the timed mile as causing anxiety.

"I was coming on to a team that had just won the National Championship, I was so nervous the night before," Ankeny said. "Having to do the timed mile made me lose a little sleep."

When she arrives in Holland on June 3, not only will she be without her UNO teammates, but without her parents Joe and Mary Ankeny.

"My mom wishes they could go," the 21-year-old said. "They hardly ever miss my

games."

Ankeny sighs as she remembers her first experiences with volleyball. She's gone from being disinterested to an All-American.

"You know I never really knew anyone who played, or admired any famous players," Ankeny said. "I just took a love for volleyball on my own."

UNO freshman Jewelia Grennan knew exactly when she wanted to continue playing volleyball. During her freshman year in high school, the Columbus, Neb., native spiked a ball she would never forget.

"I had never hit that hard before, with such velocity," Grennan said. "I was so excited. I had the feeling of succeeding and I knew I wanted more of that."

That same excitement is evident when the 5-11 middle-blocker talks about playing in Holland this summer. Grennan only needs to pass an interview before playing in the 19-and-under division, representing People to People Sports Ambassadors.

"When I got the letter it looked interesting," the pre-med major said.

According to Grennan the program emphasizes the importance of relations between international athletes.

Grennan, 20, who has never been outside the US other than Mexico, also wants to

see the Anne Frank exhibit.

At Columbus Scotus High School, Grennan's first varsity experience came her sophomore year. That year she played with senior Carmen Burbach, future Northwestern University standout.

"I learned a lot about the game from her," Grennan said.

During her four years at Scotus, the Shamrocks claimed four-straight Class C-1 volleyball championships. She was a member of three state basketball titles and one soccer championship.

The daughter of Dennis and Coni Grennan credits her parents and high school coach (John Petersen) for support. With her first fall season behind her, she looks toward Mav teammates for support.

"The night before the first fall practice, I was the most nervous person alive," the middle-blocker said. "The timed mile would have been much worse if not for the team and the coaches."

While in Holland, she wants to bring something that UNO players taught her. Something she learned that first fall practice.

"I'll be thinking of them," Grennan said. "They really reached out to me, I want to reach out to my teammates and to other teams."

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Watts Returns to UNO Squad

BRIAN BRASHAW

Staff Writer

UNO quarterback Kwanzi Watts has returned to practice with the Maverick football team in its third week of spring practice. Meeting the program's target date for Watts to get to academic requirements (getting some assignments turned in and not missing class), Watts will now begin spring practice with the team.

Despite starting nine of the Mavs' 11 games last year, Watts comes into practice as UNO's No. 4 quarterback in the depth chart. He remains behind Seth Turman, Jay Runty and Trey Guidry.

"That's from this and (missing) the last game last year," Mavericks Football Head Coach Pat Behrns told the *Omaha World-Herald*. "There's also a point of confidence and respect he's got to get back and start over with."

Watts might not take team drills until Friday, however there's a chance he could see action in the team's third scrimmage Saturday.

In last season's nine games Watts accounted for 2,443 total yards and 21 touchdowns.

The Mavericks will end spring practice with the spring game April 15th, 1 p.m. at Caniglia Field.

sports trivia

1. Between 1961 and 1969 all but one of the AP Male Athletes of the Year were baseball players. Who was the other?
2. The Ponies, Crimson and Black, the Maroons, and the Cardinals were all team names of what university?
3. In what month is the Tour de France cycling competition held?
4. Men's walking singles and men's nonwalking singles are two categories of what sport?
5. The current world Jai Alai championship is held by what country?

answers

1. Don Schollander, Olympic swimmer, 1964
2. Omaha University, forerunner to UNO
3. July
4. Shuffleboard
5. Spain

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PROVE IT!

Beloved Custodian at Penn's Basketball Arena to Receive Bachelor's Degree

COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE

PHILADELPHIA — When Dan Harrell applied to the University of Pennsylvania at age 46, he was asked to take a composition class to prove he was Ivy League material. The first assignment: write about a favorite place.

The young woman on his left chose Paris in the spring; the one on his right, the slopes of Aspen.

"I've never been out of Southwest Philly," Harrell recalled, "and I'm thinking I'm in trouble."

He decided his favorite place was the John.

"Do you know there are 50 different names for it?" he said. "It's a great place to check out the horses for the next race. Your boss can't find you there. I wrote four pages, and I got an A."

On May 22, after 10 years as a part-time student, Harrell will receive his bachelor's degree. He will graduate surrounded by people who revere him as a Penn institution — not only because of his academic achievement at age 56, but because of the love he lavishes on a fabled floor and the students who play on it.

Harrell is custodian of the Palestra.

Once a day, sometimes twice, he mops the hardwood in one of the most celebrated arenas in college hoops. He has spent, in sum, an eternity on one knee, scraping gum. And when he does his job right, the floor sings to him with the squeak of sneakers.

With a toilet brush in one hand, cleanser in the other, he scours the

locker rooms. Not once in his eight years there, he brags, "has there been a case of athlete's foot."

Dan Harrell also is a custodian in the larger sense of the word. He looks out for the athletes, scribbles notes of support, gives them rides and good-luck charms, asks about their grandmothers, advises them on classes to take — and, through his pursuit of a dream, inspires them.

"I think he's the greatest Penn success story," said Cynthia Johnson Crowley, who played basketball at Penn in 1952 and has since been a fixture at the Palestra. "There isn't anything he won't do to make your life better. And in return, it all comes back."

Fran Dunphy, the men's coach, calls him "kind of a hero of mine."

On graduation day, Harrell will dye his six-foot-wide dust mop red and blue, Penn's colors. He will tape photographs of his mother, father, and brother Frankie, all of them gone now, to the back of the mop, and march with it down Locust Walk to collect his diploma.

"The mop," he said, "represents where I'm from."

At 4:55 a.m. on a March Tuesday, the day of the big Penn-Princeton doubleheader, Dan Harrell parked his 1980 Caprice Classic with the rusted roof right at the Palestra's back door, the best spot in the lot.

Inside, everything was dark. The only sound was Big Daddy Graham talking sports on all-night radio.

"I leave it on for the spirits," Harrell said.

The Palestra opened in 1927; some

believe that ghosts of former players and fans reside there. "I've seen them plenty of times," he insisted. "Their faces are misty, and they remain in view only long enough so you know they're there."

Harrell, 6-foot-1 and a husky 240 pounds, went about collecting his supplies. He carried a boom box to the scorer's table at mid-court and popped in a CD of Irish tenors. The same lullabies his mother sang when he was a toddler filled the arena. Championship banners hung from the rafters. Dawn filtered through the skylights. The spirits retreated to the shadows.

Harrell grabbed his dust mop and started sweeping.

He lives just three blocks from the rowhouse where he grew up, near 67th and Elmwood.

His six daughters are sweet on him, but joke that he does not take his work home with him.

"He's never picked up a towel, taken out the trash, cut the lawn, or even picked up the remote," said his third-eldest, Debbie Cianci. "He has the remote handed to him."

"But," added his wife, Regina, "the Palestra sparkles."

After graduating from West Catholic High School in 1961, Harrell went to the mail room at General Electric. "In those days, maybe only one kid in 10 went to college," he said.

He worked at GE 20 years, moving up to marketing. But in 1981, everyone in his office was laid off. He dug ditches for a plumber, processed support payments for Family Court, and tended bar.

see CUSTODIAN, page 14

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North Campus
South of lot N, along University Drive South
At the three way intersection, South of Lot K along University Drive South
North of the Durham Science Center
North of the Milo Bail Student Center
East of Kayser Hall

South Campus
East of PKI (circle drive)
Lots 5, 6 and 7
East of PKI along 67th Street

Motorcycle parking is restricted to designated areas in the following locations:

South of the University Library
Southeast of the Engineering Building
Southeast corner of Lot 2 on the South Campus

Designated areas are marked with signs. No fee or permit is required.



Faculty, Staff and Students are encouraged to utilize the Shuttle service as they travel between the two campuses. The

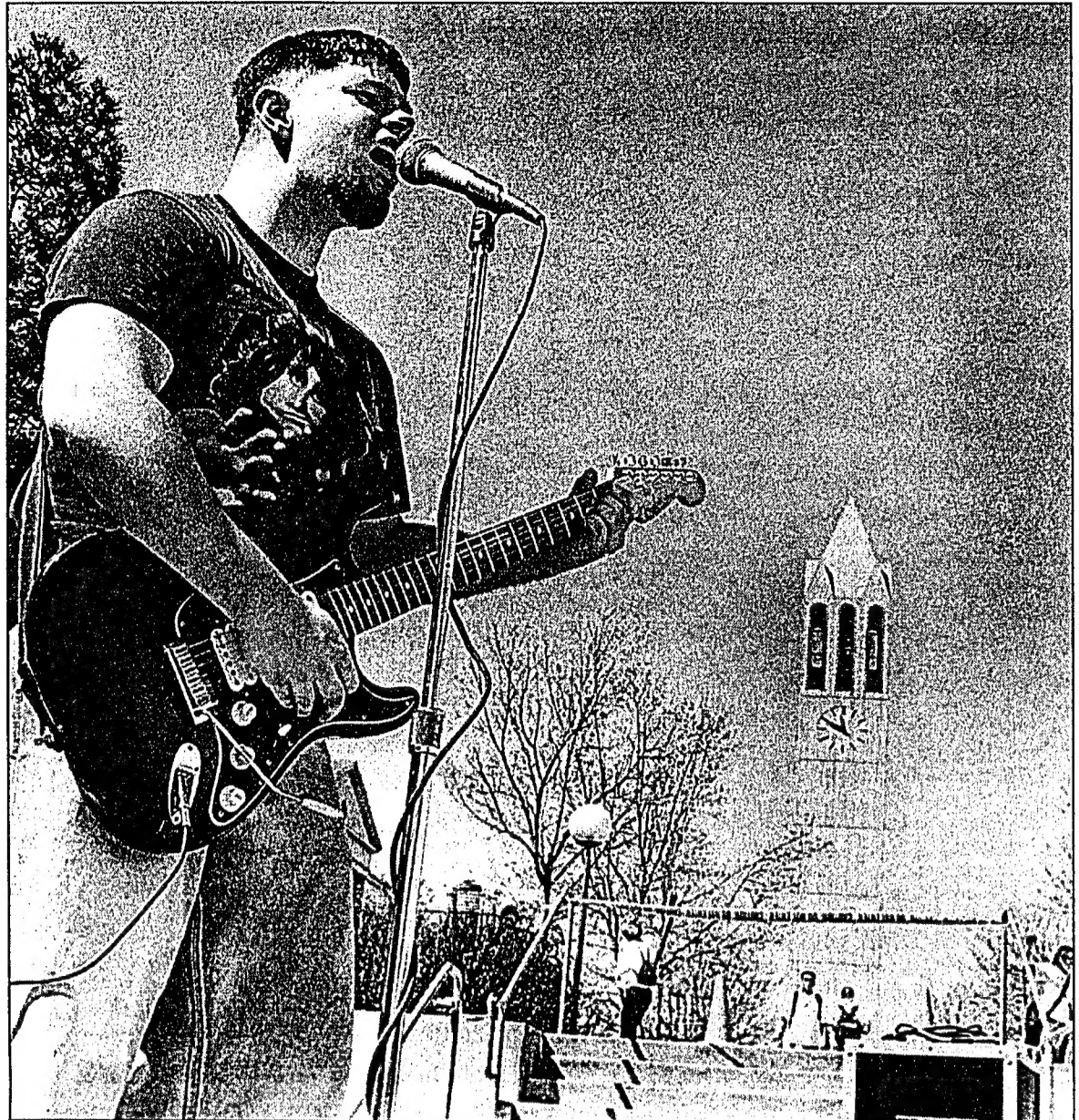


Shuttle service is provided free of charge and no parking permit is required if you park on the South Campus in lots 5, 6 or 7

If you have any questions, please contact Campus Security at 554-2648.

Spring Singin'

UNO's own Reed Hurkman of the band Yestomday took advantage of the warm weather to rock outside the student center Wednesday afternoon as part of a SPO sponsored event that even included free pizza for the students to enjoy.



CM Chris Machian

CUSTODIAN

from page 13

"I was down, drinking too much," he said. "I had to get a goal."

In the late '80s, he found work at the Wharton School — in housekeeping — and soon moved to the Palestra. To Harrell, who had been going to Big Five games there since he was a kid, it felt like home.

He learned that, as a university employee, he could enroll for free in the College of General Studies, providing he qualified.

Penn also would pay part of his daughters' tuition. That is how he put Melissa and Jackie, his fourth and fifth, through Penn State.

"I owe this place a lot," he said.

After he graduates, Harrell wants to keep working at Penn. His youngest daughter is a high school junior; the tuition benefit could be a big help. He might continue as the Palestra custodian, but, he said, "I think I have a lot more to offer."

He talks about working in Penn community relations, in neighborhoods he has known since childhood. He talks, as well, about sports facilities management.

"I think a natural for him is to be in teaching or counseling or mentoring," Dunphy said. "He's got a doctorate in life."

Curtis Brown, the equipment manager, said that his close friend "eventually wants to be athletic director. I think he'd like to start in operations and work his way up."

"Nothing wrong with dreaming."

By 10 a.m., Harrell's forehead was pasted with sweat, and his gray Pennsylvania Athletics XXL T-shirt soaked. He put on another CD, 13 versions of "Danny Boy."

He waxed poetic: "When you get the floors clean, and you come in here, it's like it was the first time when you'd walk into Connie Mack Stadium and see that sea of green grass — a beauty-ful thing."

The floors done, he headed for the locker rooms with a handful of envelopes.

Inside each was a jade shamrock key ring, bought the night before in South Philly, and a handwritten note. He tucked them in the lockers of the seniors on the men's and women's teams, for whom this would be the last home game.

Harrell has a locker, too, filled with books and papers — the sign of a man with a 3.19 GPA.

Most days, he finishes at the Palestra by 1:30, then showers and goes to class or the library. He writes his papers in Catholic-school longhand and hands off to his daughters to type them.

On game days, he is back at 4:30, and rarely leaves before midnight.

In the last decade, he has studied Russian history and the American West, anthropology and even Swahili, though he dropped that. To fulfill the language requirement, he studied sign language — useful for a man who is deaf in one ear.

Some of his favorite courses have been with anthropology professor Melvyn Hammarberg, who inspired him to major in American Civilization. Harrell thrives in the classroom, Hammarberg said, and brings his life experience with him.

For a class on the American Indian, he wrote a paper on the Lenapi's version of football. For a class on modern American cultural values, he observed the dynamics of the Penn women's volleyball team. For another, he studied how West Philadelphia real estate agents adapted to a changing population.

"One of the things I got from going to Penn," Harrell said, "was a better understanding of what happened to my own city. It was white flight based on fear and ignorance. Nobody really knew each other."

This semester, he is doing an independent-study project — on boxball. Of all the street games he played growing up, boxball was his passion. His project, he said, will celebrate the freedom children once had to create their own games and rules.

Since 1961, he has tried to preserve that culture, and his neighborhood, by coaching football at parish schools.

Two weeks ago, he became the first inductee to a new hall of fame established by graduates of St. Barnabas School, his alma mater.

He wore a blue suit and tie. His wife, who works at a shoe store, bought him Italian loafers — his first shoes without laces.

The same night, Penn was playing Yale at the Palestra. Before the induction, he dropped in to check the floor. In suit, tie and fancy loafers, he bent and scraped some gum.

"If you are a good person, you're in with Dan," said Julie Soriero, the former Penn women's coach. "If you are a little

shady, you're out. He likes to be around good people. And in return, he's a good person to all those he cares about."

Matt Langel, a senior guard, found the proof of that in his locker that Tuesday afternoon.

When he walked out on the floor for a warm-up, the first thing he did was thank Dan for the shamrock and the note and hug him.

Next in line was senior forward Frank Brown. "Dan is such an example of perseverance," Brown said. "He's like another coach to us."

At 5:30, the women's game began. Harrell was too busy working to catch much of it. Yet at the end, he was posted by the locker room, slapping five to the women as they ran in.

Soon the Palestra was mobbed for the men's game. In the front row was Karim Sadak, a senior who took Group Dynamics 240 at Wharton with Harrell.

"You walking with me at graduation, right?" Harrell yelled.

"Absolutely," Sadak replied.

With Harrell out of earshot, he confided: "I learned as much from him as I did from the professor in that class. He showed me how to interact with people, to treat people with respect. . . . He made the classroom a nicer place."

With a minute left, and Penn ahead by 70-48, Harrell worked his way up to the Penn bench, where Michael Koller was getting ready to go in.

Koller, a senior, had played on the junior varsity this season. Because this was the last game, Dunphy let him dress with the varsity and, with Penn so far ahead, let him play the last minute.

With 34 seconds left, Koller drove to the basket and was fouled. He went to the free-throw line with a chance to score his first-ever varsity points.

The crowd roared for him.

He missed the first foul shot.

He hit the second.

Harrell stabbed the air with such glee that his feet left the ground.

When a time-out was called, Koller came to the bench. Harrell kissed him on the cheek.

"Hold on," Koller screamed. "This is what did it!"

Koller rolled down the waistband of his shorts.

Pinned to the inside was a shamrock from Dan Harrell.

'Sopi': The Wind of Change in Senegal

LINDA SEDJRO

Staff Writer

If you have been born in this country and have always experienced the freedom of choosing your president, you probably would not understand the word "sopi."

If you have not seen one man president in power for 19 years and one political party in power for 40 years then you definitely would not understand "sopi."

Within the past few months Senegal's new president, Abdoulaye Wade, has finally taken the presidential seat after fighting for it for 26 years and putting the past president, Abdou Diouf, out of his near 20-year reign.

The word "sopi" means "change" in a Wolof, the native language of Senegal, a country in West Africa. It was chosen by Wade back in 1974 in order to resume his political fight against the rule of the Socialist party which was in power for 14 years. In 1974 Wade left the socialist party, and created the Democratic Party of Senegal.

When asked how the word "sopi" came about, the

newly-elected president of Senegal told a reporter in an interview for "Jeune Afrique," an African magazine, the word "sopi" was born in 1974 at a popular neighborhood in Senegal named Pikine.

"We were gathering in a small house when an old man said in Wolof, 'faw nio sopi reew-mi,'" Wade said. "Which means in English, 'There is to be a change in this country.' I instantly thought the word sounded great and I started saying, 'sopi, sopi,' and members of my party adopted it. I decided to use it as a slogan for my campaign."

Wade started his fight against the first president of Senegal, Leopold Sedar Senghor, in 1974 who was elected in 1960, and now is a member of the French academy. In 1981 Senghor left the power to his prime minister, Diouf.

With the election that just brought a new man to lead Senegal, Hamadou Cledor Diop, an international student in the Intensive Language program at UNO, has high hopes for the future.

"It's a new era for my country and things are going to get better in the future."

For Diop, "sopi" was an idea at the beginning, but it

became a philosophical idea in the mind of many people in Senegal and even the party in power has started using it.

Diop said that "sopi" also has other meanings. He said that it is a political program, a mind-set, a need to change, and a cry from suffering people.

"If someone is hurt, or if someone wants a job, it's 'sopi'," he said. "You just need to say 'sopi' to express the idea or the desire to change the system."

Diop said in Senegal, to become someone, you need to be the son or the daughter of an important person in the state religion or in the political arena. In this case, if someone says "sopi," it's to show the desire to change those habits and to start all over.

As an international student from Senegal coming to Omaha, Diop appreciates the changes in his country.

"I can only salute this great change in my country," Diop said. "I believe in 'sopi' and I think that the change in Senegal will open the eyes of others leaders in the African continent and that the wind of change is on its way to those who refuse to change and no matter how much powerful they are, they will be swept away by 'sopi'."

PUBLIC ACCESS

from page 3

dents in Gross High School. As Yancey via tape recorder joked, he met them in the woods where Williams and Ruskamp came up to him and beat him up. Since then, they have been working together to produce this program.

To film, they use video. According to Ruskamp, though video is not as high quality as film, it is used because it is economically feasible.

"Our philosophy is that video tape is your media and if you understand your media, you can still create something great."

Overall, Williams, Ruskamp and Yancey are proud of their efforts.

"If nothing else, it is well produced. It's slick and sharp, and we won't put anything on the air that's otherwise," Ruskamp said.

"That was another reason we did this, was to put something of high quality on cable access," Williams said.

And how long will episodes of "Adventure in Public Access" be running?

"Until we feel that society reforms," Williams said.

Though they have been working on various scripts for possible movies, for now they plan to stick with television.

"We try to angle everything that we do right now so it can be on a television show," Ruskamp said.

Because they own the show, eventually they hope to sell it.

"Pretty much the boot-leg market is what we're looking for — to avoid law suits," Ruskamp said.

Mr. Productions is the name of their production company, and they encourage anyone with similar ambitions to contact them.

"Anybody who wanted to get some help in getting on television, making a vision happen on video tape — we are really into helping people because nobody helped us. So we're kind of willing to let other people get their foot in the door," Ruskamp said.

When asked what their future ambitions were, film-making was obviously included.

"I'm always going to be making films for the rest of my life," Ruskamp said.

However, he does not feel that he will reach the big time.

"Nobody in their right mind would pay me to make a movie."

Williams has a few different ambitions.

"Once I finish with some contributions to the entertainment industry, I plan on pursuing a life of train-hopping and helping the needy."

Both agree on what they presently are.

"We are multi-media artists," they said.

"Adventures in Public Access" will be on Monday, April 10 at 9:30 p.m. on Cox Cable Channel 23.

Williams gives some advice to potential viewers.

"Try not to take the show too seriously if you watch it."

If anyone has comments about "Adventures in Public Access," or would like help with their filming projects, contact Rob Williams at:

Drofjournalism@yahoo.com

"Jurnalism" is purposely misspelled as Williams said.

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April 16, 2000

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-Fun With Easter Decorations
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